

Good Morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. For the record, I am State Representative Paul Davis of the 117th Assembly District (Orange, West Haven, Milford).

The purpose of my testimony this morning is to provide insight into several pieces of proposed legislation that are before you today for consideration. I hope that you find merit in these bills which are designed to address some crucial issues pertaining to transportation related problems.

SB698 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING SAFETY SIGNS AND SIGNALS TO WARN TRACTOR-TRAILER OPERATORS OF LOW BRIDGES AND IMPROVEMENTS

West Haven and Milford are home to many low railroad bridges under 13 feet in height. More than ever they are being struck by tractor trailers whose distracted operators are following GPS instructions which do not take into consideration the size of the vehicles or the height of an underpass. Damage to the bridges and extraction of the trucks are presenting problems for both the public and private sectors as well as the travelling public.

DOT currently uses some early warning systems when construction lowers an underpass. The technology exists to do a better job of warning drivers about these low underpasses. State-of-the-art early warning systems will go a long way in reducing these incidences and providing safer roads for all of us.

SB695 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE FLAX MILL LANE BRIDGE IN MILFORD

Flax Mill Lane is located on the Milford Orange border and is a major access road to Route 121. The bridge under consideration crosses the Wepawaug River and has not seen a major repair in more than 25 years. Continued deterioration may make the bridge unsafe to use. We ask for your support in this infrastructure improvement

SB696 AN ACT CONCERNING PARKING AT THE WEST HAVEN TRAIN STATION

The West Haven Train Station has been an issue before this committee for many years. The good news is that construction of the station is nearing completion hopefully coming in under budget and finishing ahead of schedule. It is expected to begin operation late this spring. The bad news is that the parking garage which was part of the original plan was scraped to reduce cost. While the station will have almost 700 spaces, there is some concern that this will not be enough. There have been many parking plans proposed including some private garages and public private partnerships. We hope this bill will serve to keep the garage concept on the table so that the station will meet the goal of providing easy access to mass transit. I might mention that there is another bill on the agenda today HB5130 which provides for a full parking study of the entire New Haven Line. I strongly endorse this concept as a reasonable approach.